

1 What is claimed is:

2 1. An information system for use on a vehicle that is operated by an operator, the system

3 comprising:

4 an output device which is supported on the vehicle and which is configured to present

5 information to the operator;

6 an input device which is supported on the vehicle and which is configured to receive

7 information from the operator;

8 a controller which is supported on the vehicle and which is configured to transmit

9 information in the form of data signals to the output device, and which is configured to

10 receive information in the form of data signals from the input device.

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12 2. The information system of claim 1, wherein the output device comprises a visual display

13 device.

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15 3. The information system of claim 2, and wherein the visual display device is a heads up

16 display.

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18 4. The information system of claim 1, wherein the output device comprises an audio

19 device.

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21 5. The information system of claim 1, wherein the input device comprises a touch pad.

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23 6. The information system of claim 1, wherein the input device comprises a microphone.

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25 7. The information system of claim 1, and further comprising a mobile communication

26 device interface which is supported on the vehicle and configured to temporarily

27 communicably link a mobile communication device to the controller.

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29 8. The information system of claim 1, and further comprising a mobile data

30 processing/storage device interface which is supported on the vehicle and configured to

31 temporarily communicably link a mobile data processing/storage device to the controller.

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1 9. The information system of claim 1, and further comprising an operator vision-
2 enhancement system which is supported on the vehicle and configured to communicate
3 with the controller.

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5 10. The information system of claim 1, and further comprising a navigation system which is
6 supported on the vehicle and configured to communicate with the controller.

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8 11. The information system of claim 11, and wherein the navigation system employs global
9 positioning system technology.

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11 12. The information system of claim 1, and further comprising a speech-recognition program
12 which is operably stored in the controller.

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14 13. The information system of claim 1, and further comprising a memory device which is
15 communicably linked with the controller and configured to retrievably store data.

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17 14. The information system of claim 1, and further comprising a weather band radio receiver
18 which is communicably linked with the controller.

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20 15. The information system of claim 1, and further comprising at least one peripheral system
21 communicably linked with the controller, wherein the controller is configured to operate the
22 respective peripheral system.

1 16. An information system comprising:
2 a vehicle configured to be operated by an operator;
3 an output device which is supported on the vehicle and configured to present
4 information to the operator;
5 an input device which is supported on the vehicle and configured to receive information
6 from the operator;
7 a controller supported on the vehicle;
8 an on-board local network which is supported on the vehicle and configured to
9 communicably link the controller with the output device and with the input device; and,
10 wherein the controller is configured to receive information in signal format from the input
11 device by way of the network, and is further configured to transmit information in signal
12 format to the output device by way of the network and in response to the information
13 received from the operator.

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15 17. A method of operating an information system, comprising:
16 providing a vehicle;
17 providing an information system;
18 supporting the information system on the vehicle;
19 inputting information into the information system;
20 presenting information from the information system in response to inputting information
21 into the system.

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23 18. The method of claim 17, and further comprising:
24 providing a mobile telephone;
25 inputting a vocal command into the information system;
26 automatically dialing the mobile telephone in response to inputting the vocal command.

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28 19. The method of claim 17, and further comprising:
29 providing a mobile data processing/storage device;
30 storing data on the mobile data processing/storage device;
31 inputting a vocal command into the information system;
32 presenting data from the mobile data processing/storage device in response to the vocal
33 command.

- 1 20. The method of claim 17, and further comprising:
2 providing a vehicle peripheral system;
3 inputting a vocal command into the information system;
4 operating the vehicle peripheral system in response to the vocal command.
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